

HEALTH

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**Huntingdon
Borough Council**

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

Year 1955



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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

by

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my third Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

The year under review has not been marked by any major change in the general health of the population. The Birth Rate shows little change compared with last year's figures and despite a fractional decrease, it still remains above the average for England and Wales as a whole.

The Death Rate for the Borough shows a slightly upward trend and is still twice the national figure. As was mentioned in last year's report, deaths occurring at Walnut Tree House are not transferable and give rise to an inflated Death Rate. The number of Infant Deaths increased from two in 1954 to five in 1955, thereby more than doubling the Infant Mortality Rate.

Heart Disease and Malignancy were again responsible for the greatest number of deaths during the year.

Whooping Cough headed the list of notifications of infectious diseases, but at no time did the disease reach epidemic proportions. There is pleasure in reporting the continued absence of Diphtheria; the last notified case having occurred in 1948. This happy state of affairs should not lead parents into a state of complacency and every effort should be exerted to ensure that the highest level of immunity to this disease is reached.

In September, a Maternity Unit of ten beds was established at Primrose Lane, Huntingdon, to replace Paxton Park Maternity Home, near St. Neots. This is a temporary arrangement pending the addition of a Maternity Wing to the County Hospital in the Borough.

The Borough's Water Supply has now been augmented by the new Brampton Mill source. Bacteriological samples have been regularly taken and the results have shown an excellent standard of purity.

Good progress has been maintained in the works of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, and when these works are finally completed considerable improvement to the amenities of the Borough will result.

The Council is continuing its policy of providing houses for families in need, but will also require to cater for families displaced under the new slum clearance scheme.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Council for the kindness and consideration they have shown to me and also to the Officers for their help and co-operation.

Your obedient Servant,
J. CALDWELL.

Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

L. D. NICHOLLS, A.M.I. MUN. E.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Area	....	....	....	....	....	2,151 acres
Number of inhabited houses at the end of						
1955	....	....	....	....	....	1,647
Rateable value of the district				....	....	£37,745
Value of a Penny Rate				....	....	£154
Estimated population (Mid 1954)				....	....	5,510
Estimated population (Mid 1955)				....	....	5,570

Vital Statistics

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total			
Legitimate	40	40	80	Birth rate per 1,000		
Illegitimate	3	5	8	estimated population	15.8	
Total	43	45	88	(Ditto for England and Wales)	....	15.0
STILL BIRTHS						
Legitimate	3	1	4	Rate per 1,000 total		
Illegitimate	—	—	—	(Live & Still) Births	43.5	
Total	3	1	4	(Ditto for England and Wales)	....	23.1
DEATHS (all ages)	M.	F.	Total			
	87	58	145	Death rate per 1,000		
				estimated population	26.0	
				(Ditto for England and Wales)	....	11.7
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR	M.	F.	Total			
Legitimate	2	1	3			
Illegitimate	—	2	2			
Total	2	3	5			

DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

All infants per 1,000 live births	56.8
(Ditto for England and Wales)	24.9

Causes of Deaths
(Registrar-General's List)

List No.	Cause	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3.	Syphilitic	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	—
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	5
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16.	Diabetes	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	11
18.	Coronary disease, angina	8	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	7	3
20.	Other heart disease	20	16
21.	Other circulatory diseases	5	1
22.	Influenza	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	1	—
24.	Bronchitis	3	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	1	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1
29.	Hyperlasia of prostate	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
34.	All other accidents	3	2
35.	Suicide	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
Totals all causes		87	58

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the Area:—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.),
Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 2097.

(b) AMBULANCE SERVICES.

- (i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service run in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders.

(Tel. Huntingdon 348).

- (ii) An ambulance stationed at the Huntingdon Isolation Hospital has been available for cases of infectious diseases.

(Tel. Huntingdon 59).

(c) HOME NURSING.

A Nurse/Midwife residing in Huntingdon (Tel. Huntingdon 717) employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out home nursing and attended maternity cases in the Borough.

(d) CLINICS—*See over.*

Medical, Surgical, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigations.

(e) HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Fever. As from May 1955, facilities for the investigation and treatment of Infectious Diseases are provided by the Isolation Hospitals at Ely, Cambridge and Peterborough.

General Hospital Services are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases Following the closing of Paxton Park, Maternity Hospital at St. Neots in September, cases are now admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon.

Tuberculosis

Total Number on Register at 31st December, 1955:—36

Pulmonary 32 Non-Pulmonary 4

Age Periods	New Cases—Diagnosed				New Cases—Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
10								
15		1						
20								
25		1						
35								
45		1						
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals		3	—	—	—	—	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Public Mortuary

A Mortuary is provided in Priory Road for the use of the district.

(i) The following health services are provided by the Huntingdonshire County Council.

Clinics.	Patients seen.	When held.	Where held.
MINOR AILMENTS.	Schoolchildren.	Every Monday, 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
INFANT WELFARE.	Children (0-5 years).	Every Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m.	do.
DENTAL.	Pre-School and Schoolchildren Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers.	Every Wed. (except 2nd in month) & every Sat. 10 a.m.—12 noon (by appointment).	10, Princes Street, Huntingdon.

(ii) The following Health Services, now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdonshire County Council:

OPHTHALMIC.	Pre-School and Schoolchildren.	1st & 3rd Fridays in the month. (By appoint- ment except in emer- gency) 10.30 a.m. to 12 noon, 2 to 4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
ORTHOPAEDIC.	Pre-School and Schoolchildren.	2nd & 4th Tuesdays in month (<i>Surgeons by ap- pointment</i>) 10 a.m. to 12 noon.	do.

(iii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board:

CHEST.	All ages.	Every Thursday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
VENEREAL DISEASES.	All ages.	Mondays 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays 4 to 6 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

MALES:	Mondays 5.30 — 7 p.m.	} Out-Patient Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
	Wednesdays 5.30 — 7 p.m.	
FEMALES:	Tuesdays 10.30 — 12 noon	
	Thursdays 5.30 — 7 p.m.	

Diphtheria Immunisation

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows :—

Age at Date of Immunisation	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5—9	10—14	Total
Primary Immunisation	28	20	3	6	2	—	—	59
Secondary or Reinforcing Injection	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	5

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the District of children up to the age of 15 years.

Age at 31.12.55 i.e. Born in Year :—	Under 1 1955	1—4 1954-1951	5—9 1950-1946	10—14 1945-1941	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1951—1955	—	213	265	239	717
B. 1950 or earlier	—	—	141	195	336

CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	46
Diphtheria	—
Measles	8
Acute Pneumonia	11
Puerperal Pyrexia	3
Typhoid Fever	—
Erysipelas	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—
Infective Hepatitis	—
Dysentery	1
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Water Supply

The new Pumping Station at Bromholme Lane was opened in July and this new source of supply has satisfied the demands of the Town. Besides supplying Godmanchester B.C. in bulk, four parishes in Huntingdon R.D. Council area and the Air Ministry Establishment at Brampton Park are now supplied. As a temporary measure, a supply of water is also being given to the Air Ministry Establishment at Alconbury, via the Huntingdon R.D.C.

Samples of the untreated water and the water in the mains have been regularly examined by the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. Good reports have in general been received. Chlorine is used to treat the water before passing into supply.

The new water scheme has had the result of generally increasing the water pressure in the mains and has also permitted properties in the Sapley area to be connected to a piped supply.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Work has progressed satisfactorily on the new sewerage scheme in Huntingdon and a great deal of the work has been completed. The work on the Sewage Disposal Works in Godmanchester was commenced in October.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse

Collections of house refuse are made once per week and trade refuse is collected by arrangement at agreed periods, on payment. Dustbins are collected from the side or back doors of the houses wherever possible. The refuse is disposed of partly by burning and partly by controlled tipping.

Housing

On the American Lane Housing Estate the 68 Trusteel Houses have been completed and a start made on 42 houses, which will substantially complete the layout of the land available.

At the end of the year the Council owned 433 houses representing 26.4% of the total estimated number of houses in the Borough.

4 houses were erected by private owners during the year.

The Council issued 12 Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949, and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Inspection of dwelling houses.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	45
	(b)	Total number of inspections made for the purpose	54
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	36
(3)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Informal Notices were served under Public Health Act, 1936	36
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit under the above heading	36
(4)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Statutory Notices were served under Public Health Act, 1936	—
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit under the above heading	—

Lodging Houses

There are no registered Lodging Houses in the Borough.

Shops Act, 1934

During the year inspections have been made of shops occupied in the Borough, and conditions were found to be of a satisfactory nature.

Factories

The undermentioned factories are operating in the Borough: Chivers & Sons, Amplion, Ltd., Acoustical Manufacturing Co., Oriental Confectionery Co.; P. & H. Engineering Co.; Silent Channel Co.; East Anglian Breweries Ltd.; Fen Potteries.

Schools

The schools are kept clean and are well ventilated, and were not closed during the year for epidemic disease. They are adequately provided with water and sanitary services.

By-Laws and Regulations

The Council have By-Laws relating to new streets and buildings, and water supply.

J. CALDWELL,
*Medical Officer of Health,
Huntingdon Borough Council.*

HUNTINGDON.

August, 1956.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1955

Complaints received	....	....	Total Number of	....	....	62
Premises, Houses, etc. (under Sec. 92 P.H. Act, 1936)	....	....	No. inspected	....	....	45
			Nuisances abated	....	....	45
Animals improperly kept	....	....	No. inspected	....	....	—
			Nuisances abated	....	....	—
Drain, urinal, cesspool	....	....	No. inspected	....	....	15
			Nuisances abated	....	....	15
Smoke nuisances	....	....	No. of observations	....	....	3
			Nuisances abated	....	....	—
Offensive accumulations	....	....	No. of inspections	....	....	1
			Nuisances abated	....	....	1
Other Sanitary conditions	....	....	No. inspected	....	....	—
			Nuisances abated	....	....	—
Slaughter houses and Shops	....	....	No. licensed or registered	....	....	2
			No. of inspections	....	....	7
Offensive trades (Section 112 Public Health Act, 1875)	....	....	No. established	....	....	—
			No. of inspections	....	....	—
			Houses affected with Tuberculosis	....	....	3
			No. of inspections	....	....	3
			Houses disinfected	....	....	3
			Schools disinfected	....	....	—
			Disinfectant used	....	....	—
			Prince Regent	....	....	—
			Lots of clothing disinfected	....	....	—
			„ „ destroyed	....	....	—
Water Closets	....	....	New provided	....	....	13
			Samples taken for Analysis	....	....	145
			Samples condemned	....	....	—
			Wells closed	....	....	—
Water Supply	....	....	Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	....	....	—
			Public supply substituted for well or pond	....	....	—
			Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered	....	....	—
Building Bye-Laws adopted	....	....	....	....	....	—
Total legal proceedings, i.e., Summonses, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	—
			Convictions	....	....	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Factories	....	....	Total number on register including bakehouses	....	86
			No. in which nuisance abated	....	—
Bakehouses	....	....	No. on register	....	1
Outworkers	....	....	No. of outworkers	....	9
			No. of houses	....	9
			No. of infected houses	....	—
Legal Proceedings, i.e., Summonses, etc.	....	....	....	....	—
			Convictions	....	—

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.—Food inspection and Sampling is carried out by the County Weights and Food and Veterinary Inspectors.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—This is dealt with by the County Weights and Food and Veterinary Inspectors.

Notices requesting persons not to take dogs into premises in which food is sold were distributed to shopkeepers again.

L. D. NICHOLLS,
Sanitary Inspector.

J. CALDWELL,
Medical Officer of Health.
